



Centro de Documentación de la Embajada de los Estados Unidos
Santiago de Chile

VICTORIA EN EUROPA

El 8 de mayo de 1945, Gran Bretaña y los Estados Unidos celebraron la victoria en Europa. Las ciudades de ambas naciones, como otras que habían sido ocupadas por las potencias del eje en Europa Occidental, izaron banderas y pendones, alegrándose del fracaso de la maquinaria de guerra Nazi.

El ocho de mayo es conocido como el día en que las tropas alemanas depusieron sus armas en toda Europa: en Praga, los alemanes se rindieron a sus antagonistas soviéticos, habiendo perdido estos últimos más de 8000 soldados, y los alemanes una cifra aún mayor; en Copenhague y Oslo; en Karlshost, cerca de Berlín; en el norte de Latvia; en la isla del Canal de Sark – la rendición alemana se realizó con un cese del fuego. Numerosas actas de rendición fueron firmadas en Berlín y en Alemania Oriental.

La confrontación alemana-soviética continuaría durante el día siguiente. El 9 de mayo, los soviéticos perderían otros 600 soldados en Silesia, antes que los alemanes se rindieran. Consecuentemente, el Día de la Victoria no se celebraría hasta el día siguiente en Moscú.

El presidente Harry Truman anunciaba oficialmente el fin de la guerra en Europa a través de una proclama en que llamaba no sólo a dar gracias y alegrarse por la victoria, sino que ofrecer una plegaria y un recuerdo por aquellos que habiendo luchado, no habían alcanzado a vivir para testimoniarla.

"Una Proclama – Los ejércitos aliados, con sacrificio y devoción y con la ayuda de Dios, han exigido a Alemania una rendición final e incondicional. El mundo occidental ha sido liberado de las fuerzas malignas que por cinco años y más han tomado prisioneros y han destruido vidas de hombres libres, han violado sus iglesias, destruidos sus hogares, corrompidos sus hijos y asesinados a sus seres queridos. Nuestros ejércitos de liberación han restaurado la libertad de estos sufridos pueblos cuyo espíritu y voluntad los opresores nunca pudieron esclavizar."

"Queda mucho por hacer. La victoria obtenida en el occidente debe lograrse en el este. El mundo entero debe purificarse del mal ya que la mitad del mundo ha sido liberado. Unidas, las naciones amantes de la paz han demostrado en el occidente que sus ejércitos han sido más poderosos que el poder de dictadores o de tiranías militares que alguna vez nos parecieron suaves y débiles. El poder de nuestra gente para defendernos en contra de todos los enemigos se probará en la guerra del Pacífico, tal como ha sido demostrado en Europa."

"Por el triunfo del espíritu y de las armas por las que hemos ganado, y por la promesa a los pueblos en todos lados quienes se han unido en amor a la libertad, y es apropiado que nosotros como nación, demos gracias a Dios todopoderoso, que nos ha fortalecido y nos ha dado la victoria."

"Por lo tanto, yo Harry S Truman, Presidente de los Estados Unidos de América, designo el domingo 13 de mayo de 1945, como día de oración."

"Llamo al pueblo de los Estados Unidos, cualquiera sea su fe, unirse en un jubiloso agradecimiento a Dios por la victoria obtenida, y rogarle que nos apoye hasta el fin de la presente lucha y nos guíe por los caminos de la paz."

"También llamo a mis compatriotas, que dediquen este día a la oración en memoria de aquellos que ofrecieron sus vidas para hacer posible esta victoria."

"En testimonio de lo cual, pongo con mi mano el sello de los Estados Unidos."

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